

# THE BATTALION

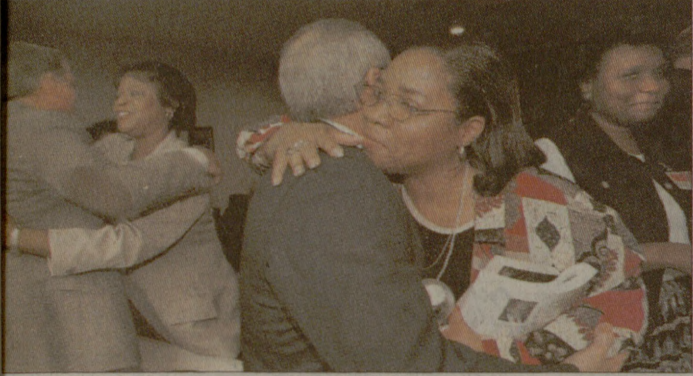
## 106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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# Brewer sentenced to death



The Byrd family embraces after the jury's decision was released.



Lawrence Russell Brewer Jr. reacts.



Brewer's parents, Helen and Lawrence Russell Sr., and his brother John respond to the sentencing.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BY RYAN WEST  
The Battalion

Lawrence Russell Brewer Jr. will head to death row to await lethal injection for the dragging death of James A. Byrd Jr. following a jury's decision yesterday.

The jurors spent more than 14 hours over two days to decide Brewer's punishment following his capital murder conviction Monday.

During deliberation yesterday, jurors asked to see photographs of Brewer's white-supremacist tattoos and of him with his family.

District Judge Monte Lawlis, who presided over the trial, said jurors took their responsibility seriously.

"Of all the trials I've conducted, this was one of the hardest-working, most sincere group of jurors I've ever had," he said.

Lawlis said he was pleased with the jurors, who analyzed and discussed the issues "fully, frankly and freely."

He said the effort and preparation of Brazos County officials lessened the impact difficult trial could have had on the city.

Joe Brown, public information officer for the city of Bryan, said he agreed during the trial to take on public-relations responsibilities for Brazos County, because the county did not have its own public information officer to handle the needs of the national media.

"We haven't dealt with this much coverage since the opening of the George Bush [Presiden-

cial] Library [and Conference Center]," Brown said.

He said he did not mind serving as the county's public information officer because the city of Bryan has always had a good relationship with Brazos County.

"[The trial] couldn't have gone better," Brown said. "Even some of the national reporters said we did a first-class job."

He said the trial was uneventful from a law-enforcement standpoint, with no scares, threats or technological glitches.

"The biggest help from Bryan-College Station citizens was that they stayed away from the courthouse," Brown said.

**"This was one of the hardest-working ... group of jurors I've ever had."**

— Monte Lawlis  
District Judge

"They didn't stand there and gawk, which tends to make law enforcement nervous."

District Judge John Delaney of Brazos County said he is proud of the hundreds of people who worked to make the trial run as smoothly as possible.

"From the people who answered the call to jury duty, to the church groups who fed and nurtured the visitors from Jasper, the people of Brazos County stood up and put service over self over and over," he said.

Brewer will now join former prisonmate John Williams King on death row.

Williams has been on death row since February for his role in Byrd's murder.

Shawn Allen Berry, the third man charged in Byrd's death, goes to trial next month in Jasper.

Prosecutors will again seek a conviction and the death penalty.

# Acclaimed scientist visits A&M

BY BRADY CREEL  
The Battalion



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

One of the nation's leading scientists, Dr. Fred MacKenzie, said man has the potential to have a dramatic effect on the environment, oceans and climate at a lecture he hosted yesterday on the earth's atmosphere.

MacKenzie, a professor of geochemistry at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, is the first recipient of the Michel T. Halbouty Visiting Chair in Geology and Geophysics. The chair was created with a million endowment given by Michel T. Halbouty, Class of '30.

Dr. Andrew Hajash, head of the Department of Geology and Geophysics, said the visiting chair program allows for exchange of ideas to occur between the visitor and the students and faculty of A&M, and it allows them to gain new perspectives on the subjects they choose to discuss.

"What this [visiting chair] does is give us a chance to interact with scholars and scientists from around the world," he said.

Halbouty said the College of Geosciences is currently the only college at A&M that has this program. He said he believes other colleges at the University can benefit from the visiting chair concept as well.

Michel T. Halbouty, Class of '30, listens as visiting professor Dr. Fred MacKenzie delivers his lecture. Halbouty's donation of \$1 million to create the visiting chair endowment made the visit possible.

"I think the infusion of people from the outside can do a lot of good for not only students, but for the faculty," Halbouty said.

Hajash said the visiting chair was designed to allow a guest to come each year to offer his or her insight on their field of expertise.

"Every year there will be somebody else who will come in and spend from a week to a few months here," he said.

"This is an opportunity that we have not had in the past, and I think other departments will be trying to do the same thing."

Dr. Mackenzie said he had a great experience visiting Texas A&M.

Throughout the week, faculty and students of the College of Geosciences have had a chance to share knowledge with Mackenzie.

"For the last four days, I have really had nothing but exciting meetings with students and faculty, talking about their research and futures," Mackenzie said.

# Former cadets to gather for third annual Reunion

BY STUART HUTSON  
The Battalion

Former Corps of Cadets members will return to campus this weekend to rekindle the friendships they established during their years at A&M at the third annual Corps of Cadets Reunion.

Lt. Col. Keith Stephens, director of the Corps of Cadets Center and Class of '71, said the reunion offers former cadets the chance to relive their college days.

"A lot of former cadets come to kind of reignite the flame of Aggie tradition," Stephens said. "They can come in and watch the march-in at Kyle Field or go to the Midnight Yell Practice, just like their college days."

Stephens said many former cadets come to see the changes that have occurred within the Corps and at A&M since they left.

"In my time here alone, I have seen the number of students rise from 12,000 to 43,000," he said. "I have seen the percentage of female students rise from 1 percent to 51 percent, and I have seen the campus almost triple in size."

Stephens said some changes are not always welcomed by the former cadets, but they soon

come to realize that there are some traditions that can never stop changing.

### Third Annual Cadets Reunion

**WHO:** Former Corps members  
**WHERE:** Texas A&M Campus  
**WHEN:** This weekend  
**WHY:** To offer former cadets the chance to relive their college days.

"Take the dining-hall policy for example," he said.

"Some former cadets were here when it was family-style, and some were here when it was cafeteria-style. Neither understands why the tradition has to keep changing, but they eventually come to accept it."

Stephens said some characteristics of the Corps will never change despite the changes which occur at the University.

"The Aggie Code of Honor, the 14 Leadership Traits and the motto 'Soldier, statesman, and knight-

ly gentlemen'—the traits which make someone proud to be a member of the Corps will never change," Stephens said.

Corps of Cadets Commander Forrest Lane, a senior political science and economics major, said the returning former cadets offer a valuable learning experience for cadets who may have questions about their time after the Corps.

"These are people who have been where we are now and many have become extremely successful," Lane said. "Not only can they offer mentorship that can help with future endeavors, but they can offer advice about where we are now."

Gen. Donald Johnson, Corps of Cadets deputy commandant and chief of staff, said in addition to reliving old traditions, the former cadets will also have the opportunity to enter a golf tournament from which the proceeds will go toward two-year Corps of Cadets scholarships.

Johnson said there are currently more than 40 current and former cadets signed up to play in the tournament, which he said he hopes will bring in \$5,000 for scholarships.

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Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details on a photo exhibit on Cowboys.

# Hearne fest to celebrate harvest time

BY ERIKA DOERR  
The Battalion

Downtown Hearne will come alive Saturday as visitors to the third annual Crossroads Sunflower Festival enjoy food, live music, arts and crafts.

Kathy Stracener, executive director of Hearne's Chamber of Commerce, said the festival is a celebration of the sunflower harvest season.

"Sunflowers used to be raised commercially in Hearne, but not anymore," Stracener said. "This festival is a harvest celebration in the heart of the Brazos Valley. Hearne is the sunflower capital of Texas."

Events will begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue until dark. Musicians such as the Full House Blues Band, Honey Boy Webster and the On Time Gospel Singers and Bobby Hall and the Ice Cold Blues Band will perform throughout the day.

Sally Pryor, wife of Hearne City Manager



ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

Ken Pryor, said this will be the second time she participate in the festival.

"Last year it rained on the festival, but even with the rain, everyone still came out and joined in the festivities," she said. "The first year I went the musicians were outstanding. I can't believe we have such incredible talent in this area."

"The year I participated, I estimate there were some 3,000 people attending the festival," she said.

"There have been several Texas A&M students who participate by selling drinks at various booths and coming to enjoy the festivities. I am excited to see how many people will attend this year."

# New class to address civil rights

BY EMILY R. SNOOKS  
The Battalion

Maryland from Colorado that she discovered there were still racial boundaries.

"I always thought everything was fine and the civil rights movement had solved everything," she said. "But I found out when I moved that it didn't accomplish everything that needed to be done."

Malitz said to expand her knowledge of the civil rights movement, she hopes to take a class at A&M focusing on the movement.

Lorna Hermosura of the Multicultural Services Department attended the meeting to inform students about a class she will be co-instructing in the spring titled leadership of the civil rights movement.

Hermosura said the course studies the civil rights movement in preparation for a spring break trip in which the class will travel to sites of major civil-rights protests in the South.

"All the students will travel to Atlanta, [Ga.], Birmingham, [Ala.] Little Rock, [Ark.] and Selma [Ala.]," she said. "They will be able to meet people who were actually involved [in the movement]."

"It is the opportunity of a lifetime and not to mention a life-changing experience."

The class enrollment has been limited to 12 students, and those who wish to enroll in the class must submit an application with an essay. Applications will be available at the end of October in the Multicultural Services office.

Twenty-five Texas A&M students gathered yesterday to discuss the civil-rights movement of the late '50s and early '60s and an upcoming class to be offered in the spring for those who want to learn more about the movement.

Jennifer Powis, an assistant in the Women's Studies Program, showed clips from "Eyes on the Prize," a PBS documentary about the civil-rights struggle, and then led a discussion about the events shown in the film.

Powis said it is important for students to learn about the movement because most students know only small details, and at the college age they can now relate to the struggle.

"We need to meet the need on campus. There are only a couple classes [about the civil rights movement] offered at A&M for students."

"[College] students can relate to the events because many of the participants [in the civil-rights movement] were high-school and college students."

Leslie Malitz, a junior theater arts major, said she attended the discussion because she did not realize the civil-rights movement is still active today.

She said it was not until she moved to